

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /015 W  
-----120004Z 033242 /72  
P 112330Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2067  
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 07225

FOR: CU/ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SCUL  
SUBJECT: US PARTICIPATION 5TH INTERNATIONAL CERVANTES  
FESTIVAL.

1. US PARTICIPATION 5TH INTERNATIONAL CERVANTES FESTIVAL  
HELD IN GUANAJUATO, MEXICO FEATURED TWO PERFORMANCES BY  
INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN ALVIN NIKOLAIS DANCE THEATRE AND  
ALSO INCLUDED PERFORMANCES BY THE AEOLIAN CONSORT AND  
TWO PERFORMANCES OF BROADWAY MUSICAL COMEDY "CELEBRATION"  
PRESENTED BY THE THEATRE WORKSHOP OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY  
IN MEXICO CITY.

2. ACCORDING TO FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS AND STAFF, LARGE  
NUMBERS OF VISITORS TO GUANAJUATO TIMED THEIR ARRIVAL TO  
COINCIDE WITH ALVIN NIKOLAIS DANCE THEATRE WHICH GAVE  
FIRST PERFORMANCE ON MAY 4 FOLLOWED BY COCKTAIL-RECEPTION  
OFFERED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM AND MRS. HERBERT B.  
THOMPSON. SECOND PERFORMANCE GIVEN THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.  
BOTH PRESENTATIONS WERE AT THE JUAREZ THEATRE WHERE MAJOR  
CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS ALWAYS FEATURED.

3. NORMAL PROCEDURE IN GUANAJUATO FOR FESTIVAL  
PARTICIPANTS, THIS YEAR NUMBERING 24 COUNTRIES, IS  
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ADMISSION TO ANY FESTIVAL EVENT UPON PRESENTATION  
IDENTIFICATION TAG AS FESTIVAL PARTICIPANT. FOR NIKOLAIS  
PERFORMANCES, HOWEVER, DEMAND FOR TICKETS WAS SO  
HIGH THAT BOTH PERFORMANCES WERE SOLD OUT IMMEDIATELY AND  
FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT ALLOWED IN UNLESS THEY HAD  
TICKETS. ALTHOUGH MANY OTHER FESTIVAL EVENTS WERE FULL,  
NIKOLAIS WAS THE ONLY ONE IN WHICH FESTIVAL IDENTIFICATION

TAGS NOT SUFFICIENT TO GAIN ACCESS.

4. ON OPENING NIGHT LIC. AND MRS. LUIS H. DUCOING, GOVERNOR OF STATE OF GUANAJUATO; SECRETARY OF TOURISM ARQ. GUILLERMO ROSSELL DE LA LAMA AND HIS WIFE EMILIA DE LA LAMA WHO IS PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE FESTIVAL, MAESTRO ANTONIO LOPEZ MANCERA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FESTIVAL AND AMALIA HERNANDEZ, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE BALLET FOLKLORICO WERE IN ATTENDANCE AND STAYED FOR THE RECEPTION GIVEN BY CHARGE THOMPSON IN HONOR OF ALVIN NIKOLAIS. ALTHOUGH NIKOLAIS PROGRAM IS THREE HOURS LONG, STANDING OVATION AND SHOUTS OF BRAVO TESTIFIED TO ITS OVERWHELMING SUCCESS.

5. THE AEOLIAN CONSORT FEATURING EUGENE LIST AT THE PIANO MEETING A VERY TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE, ARRIVED IN MEXICO CITY FROM CARACAS AT 12 NOON ON THE 9TH, LEFT STRAIGHT FOR GUANAJUATO ON A FIVE-HOUR BUS RIDE AND PLAYED THEIR 7 O'CLOCK CONCERT AT GUANAJUATO AT THE TEMPLO DE LA COMPANIA DE JESUS TO A FULL HOUSE. THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THIS GROUP WAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE HIGH ARTISTIC QUALITY OF THEIR PERFORMANCE AFTER WHAT HAD BEEN A MOST GRUELING DAY. THE SECOND PERFORMANCE THE FOLLOWING NIGHT WAS ALSO PRESENTED TO A FULL HOUSE AND INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE TWO PERFORMANCES AT THE PINACOTECA VIRREINAL IN MEXICO CITY ON THE 11TH AND 12TH WILL BE EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL. COUNSELOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS MR. LEONARD J. BALDYGA WILL HAVE A RECEPTION FOR THE CONSORT AFTER THEIR FIRST PERFORMANCE ON THE 11TH IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MEXICO CITY.

6. IN DISCUSSING US PARTICIPATION AT THE GUANAJUATO FESTIVAL, SPECIAL MENTION MUST BE MADE OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY THEATRE WORKSHOP'S PRODUCTION OF "CELEBRATION". THE CAST COMPOSED OF STUDENTS, HOUSEWIVES AND BUSINESSMEN, ALTHOUGH NOT PROFESSIONAL IN THE NORMAL SENSE OF THE WORD IN THAT THEY ARE NOT PAID, PRESENTED NEAR PERFECT PERFORMANCES TO LARGE AUDIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUANAJUATO THEATRE. THE AUDIENCES FOR THE TWO NIGHTS TOTALLED APPROXIMATELY 1500 PEOPLE AND, ALTHOUGH THE PRESENTATION WAS IN ENGLISH, APLAUSE AND LAUGHTER INDICATED THAT THEY ENJOYED THE DANCING AND SINGING SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE THE EVENING WORTHWHILE.

7. CAO, JERRY INMAN INTRODUCED BOTH PERFORMANCES WITH A BRIEF EXPLANATION IN SPANISH OF THE THEME OF THIS OUTSTANDING MUSICAL COMEDY IN ORDER TO GIVE THE AUDIENCE A BETTER FEEL FOR THE ACTION ON STAGE.

8. PUBLICITY FOR U.S. PRESENTATIONS WAS VERY GOOD AND CRITICAL COMMENT OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE. VIRGINIA BARRIOS GOMEZ, WRITING IN THE EL HERALDO OF LEON SAID, FOR EXAMPLE: "THE "GRAN SENOR", AS HE CAN BE CALLED, IS AN INSTITUTION; THE NAME OF ALVIN NIKOLAIS HIGHLIGHTS THIS COLUMN IN CAPITOL LETTERS. THE COREOGRAPHY, MUSICAL COMPOSITION, LIGHT DESIGN, COSTUME, DANCE AND IN SUM THE ENTIRE GAMUT OF TALENTS THAT MANIFESTED THEMSELVES IN

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P 112330Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2068  
INFO USIA WASHDC

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THIS SPECTACULAR DELIGHTED THE VISION, STIMULATED THE IMAGINATION, DREW A SMILE OF PLEASURE FROM THE LIPS, EXCITED HEART PALPITATIONS WITH THE SOUNDS THAT HARMONIZED EACH MOVEMENT, AND ENLARGED THE PUPILS, WITH THE SURPRISINGLY LUMINOUS STAGING AND DEEP AUDIOVISUAL EFFECTS THAT COMPLEMENTED THIS EXCEPTIONALY BEAUTIFUL PRODUCTION."

9. IN SUM, US PARTICIPATION AT THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL CERVANTES FESTIVAL WAS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS AND WE HAVE RECEIVED DEEP EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE FROM THE FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS FOR OUR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT.  
THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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